Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1991-1992

Saskatchewan
Seniors'
Secretariat

Saskatchewan
Senior Citizens'
Provincial
Council

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Council

92-07432/

Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat, including the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council, for the year ended March 31, 1992.

The Seniors' Secretariat and the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council are dedicated to ensuring a better future for Saskatchewan seniors.

Sincerely,

Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

The Honourable Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

Dear Madam:

On behalf of the staff of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1992.

This was a very active year for the Seniors' Secretariat. We provided information to the public, administered seniors' programs and provided input on a number of issues affecting seniors. We also worked together with the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council on a number of issues, including elder abuse.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Perrins

Dan Perrins
Secretary

The Honourable Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

Dear Madam:

I am pleased to present to you the 1991-92 Annual Review of the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council as part of the Annual Report of the Seniors' Secretariat.

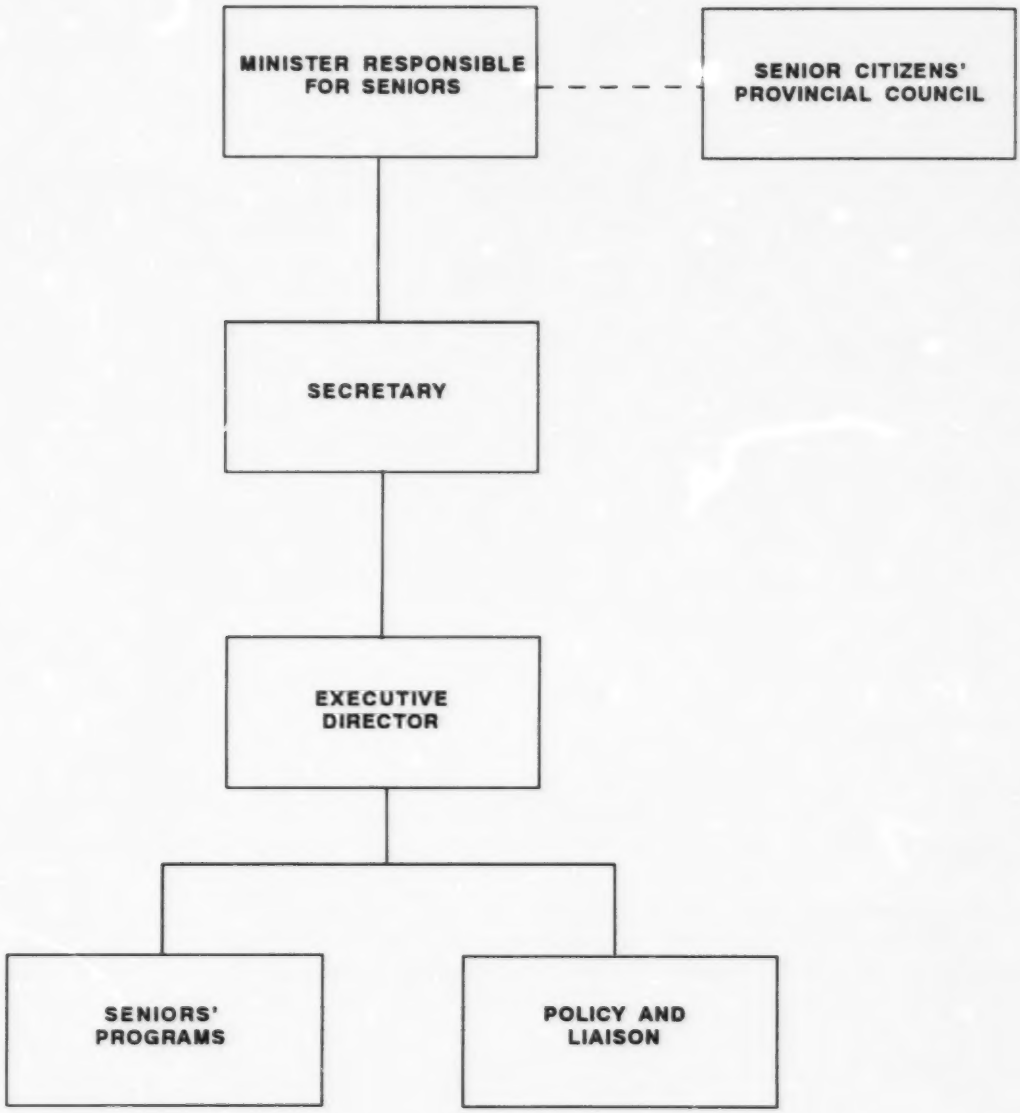
Council had another busy year in 1991-92. Elder Abuse was one of our priorities for the year. We prepared an action plan, made recommendations and undertook initiatives to increase public awareness.

Respectfully submitted,

Madge McKillop

Madge McKillop
Chairperson

Organization Chart



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Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat Mission and Mandate

Our Mission

Working with seniors to enhance their lives.

Our Mandate

- Develop, promote, coordinate and implement policies and programs that support seniors and maximize their independence.
- Serve as a focal point in government for seniors' issues, and act as a contact for seniors to access government services and information.
- Support the Minister responsible for Seniors in exercising the powers, duties and functions of her office.

Our Key Priorities

- Ensuring seniors have adequate resources for a dignified and independent life.
- Ensuring the independence of seniors by facilitating access to social supports.

Seniors' Secretariat

- Provided Saskatchewan Income Plan benefits to an average of 20,319 seniors each month for total expenditures of $12,286,056.
- Paid 67,171 Senior Citizens' Heritage Grants benefiting 92,134 individuals for total expenditures of $33,804,300.
- Provided 353 operating grants to senior activity centres and seniors' organizations for total expenditures of $837,540.
- Met with seniors in 166 senior activity centres throughout the province.
- Published a compendium of statistics on seniors entitled A Profile of Saskatchewan's Older Adults.
- Published and distributed the Grey Matters newsletter to give other government departments and agencies information on seniors and their issues.
- Represented the Secretariat on various committees, including:
  - Working Committee on Family Policy;
  - Elder Abuse Prevention Project Advisory Group;
  - Partnership Committee on Family Violence; and
  - Seniors Advisory Committee on Housing.

Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

- Developed an action plan for elder abuse. Emphasis was placed on public awareness and education.
- Prepared Abuse of the Elderly: Recommendations to the Minister responsible for Seniors.
- Promoted and planned activities to honour seniors during Seniors' Week.
- Submitted a brief to the Task Force on Saskatchewan's Future in Confederation.
- Submitted a brief to the Premier's Disabled Persons Advisory Committee.

Seniors' Programs Branch

Branch Mandate

The Seniors' Programs Branch administers the Saskatchewan Income Plan, the Senior Citizens' Heritage Program and the Grants for Senior Citizens' Services. The branch is also responsible for providing information and referral services to seniors, other government agencies and non-government organizations.

Major Activities

Saskatchewan Income Plan

The Saskatchewan Income Plan was introduced in 1975-76 to provide benefits to low-income seniors. By providing a monthly income supplement to approximately 20,000 Saskatchewan seniors who have little or no income other than the federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Saskatchewan Income Plan is the key program administered by the Secretariat. The supplement has helped to reduce poverty among seniors and increase their financial independence.

No application is necessary as benefits are based on the amount of Guaranteed Income Supplement received by a senior. Individuals must be 65 years of age or older and receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement payments in order to qualify for Saskatchewan Income Plan benefits. The legislative authority to provide Saskatchewan Income Plan benefits is The Saskatchewan Income Plan Act.

The maximum monthly benefits payable in 1991-92 were $80 for a single senior and $135 for a senior couple ($67.50 each). An average of 20,319 seniors received benefits each month under the Saskatchewan Income Plan, for a total expenditure of $12,286,056.

Table 1
Saskatchewan Income Plan
Expenditures and Caseloads
1986-87 to 1991-92

	Actual Expenditures	Avg. Case Load
1986-87	$10,738,710	24,614
1987-88	12,787,625	25,654
1988-89	14,175,093	25,942
1989-90	15,110,914	25,377
1990-91	13,317,674	22,154
1991-92	12,286,056	20,319

Senior Citizens' Heritage Program

The Senior Citizens' Heritage Program is intended to assist low and middle income seniors remain independent in their own homes. The Heritage program was introduced in 1986, and provides a once a year, unconditional grant. The majority of beneficiaries use the grant to help pay for property taxes or minor home repairs.

Seniors must apply for a Heritage grant. In 1991, seniors with combined total incomes of $30,000 or less could qualify. Seniors residing in public housing facilities received a reduced grant, and seniors residing in hospitals or in nursing homes receiving level 2 or more nursing care did not qualify. The legislative authority to pay Heritage grants is The Senior Citizens' Heritage Program Act.

During the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992, Heritage grants were issued to 67,171 senior households for an average benefit of $503.26 and a total expenditure of $33,804,300.

Table 2
Senior Citizens' Heritage Program
Benefit Levels
1991-92

Total Annual Income	Grants	
	Single	Couple
$25,001 to $30,000	$250	$350
$25,000 and under	500	700
$30,000 and under living in public housing	200	400

Table 3
Senior Citizens' Heritage Program
1986-87 to 1991-92

	Actual Expenditures	Number of Households	Number of Beneficiaries
1986-87	$39,190,800	75,168	106,892
1987-88	37,706,561	71,892	102,024
1988-89	37,602,600	71,905	101,440
1989-90	36,824,250	71,147	99,496
1990-91	35,274,225	69,121	95,667
1991-92	33,804,300	67,171	92,134

Grants for Senior Citizens' Services

Grants are provided for on-going operations and special projects of organizations that promote the health and independence of seniors.

In 1991-92, operating grants totalling $793,588 were provided to assist non-profit organizations in the day-to-day operation of physical facilities and programs for seniors. One provincial organization and 321 senior activity centres qualified for grants calculated at 40 per cent of their 1982-83 expenses, for an average operating grant of $2,464.56

For the program year 1991-92, the Seniors' Secretariat also provided matching equipment grants to a maximum of $500 to senior activity centres that were starting seniors' wellness clinics. The clinics provide basic health screening and some health education. Fifteen grants were paid averaging $214.27, for a total of $3,214.

Seniors' Programs Branch

Special Projects have also been funded from time to time. In 1991-92, eleven special project grants were paid, totalling $29,400. Projects included an elder abuse prevention program sponsored by the University of Regina's Seniors' University Group and home support services in Moose Jaw, Regina and Saskatoon.

Five construction grants were paid for a total of $11,338. These payments represented the final instalment for construction projects that were approved in the 1990-91 fiscal year or earlier. Effective 1991-92, senior activity centres could apply through their municipality for construction funds under the Saskatchewan Community Builds Program.

The legislative authority to provide Grants for Senior Citizens' Services is Section 18 of The Government Organization Act.

Table 4
Grants for Senior Citizens' Services
1986-87 to 1991-92

	Actual Expenditures	# of Grants
1986-87	$1,195,790	392
1987-88	1,031,363	401
1988-89	1,116,032	358
1989-90	1,072,694	389
1990-91	1,103,666	394
1991-92	837,540	353

Inquiry

The Seniors' Programs Branch operates an inquiry service. Through a local number and a province-wide toll-free line, the branch answers about 1,500 questions a month. Calls come in from seniors or their family, primarily for information about how to access services for seniors.

Plans for 1992-93

The Senior Citizens' Heritage Program will be extended for 1992 only. It will be available in a modified form for that year.

The branch will implement an increase in the maximum Saskatchewan Income Plan rates in October 1992. In addition, an in-house computer system will be introduced to improve the administration and reduce the costs of the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

During the upcoming fiscal year, staff will participate in two reviews of programs available for seniors. One review will focus on income security broadly. A second review will look at programs for seniors to ensure they are appropriate and administratively efficient.

Branch Mandate

The Policy and Liaison Branch coordinates policies and issues among provincial departments as they relate to seniors. Policy development is also undertaken on various seniors' issues. Staff of the branch liaise and consult with seniors, seniors' organizations, and other levels of government. The Policy and Liaison Branch also provides research and administrative support to the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council.

Major Activities

Policy

The Policy and Liaison Branch worked to maintain an overview of seniors' policy and program issues and provided input to those issues.

Income support for seniors is a priority issue. The branch worked with the Seniors' Programs Branch to review the benefits available from the Senior Citizens' Heritage Program and the Saskatchewan Income Plan. Options designed to target benefits to those seniors in greatest need were prepared for consideration in the 1992-93 budget review process.

Income support was a key topic in the Minister's Consultation: Background Paper prepared by the branch. The document was used by the Minister responsible for Seniors during consultations with seniors' organizations prior to preparing the 1992-93 provincial budget.

Elder abuse is another priority issue. The Policy and Liaison Branch worked closely with the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council to increase public awareness. This included making presentations, distributing information and maintaining contacts with community groups. In addition, the branch is represented on the Elder Abuse Prevention Project Advisory Group of the Seniors' Education Centre (University of Regina Extension).

Staff also represented the Seniors' Secretariat on various committees. These included the Working Committee on Family policy, the provincial Partnership Committee on Family Violence and the federal-provincial Seniors Advisory Committee on Housing. The Seniors' Secretariat also was represented on the task force preparing recommendations to the Premier's Disabled Persons Advisory Committee.

Throughout the year, the Policy and Liaison Branch worked with federal departments and agencies, including the federal Seniors Secretariat. A representative attended a meeting of secretariats from across Canada hosted by the federal agency.

The branch worked with Health and Welfare Canada at both the local and national levels. Contacts were maintained with staff of the Income Security Programs Branch, the New Horizons Program, the Seniors Independence Program and the Family Violence Prevention Division.

The branch also worked with other federal and provincial departments on a number of issues including consumer protection, crime prevention, health, housing and transportation.

Policy and Liaison Branch

During the year, the branch prepared publications for distribution to the public including a compendium of statistics entitled A Profile of Saskatchewan's Older Adults and the Minister's Consultation: Background Paper. Four editions of Grey Matters, a quarterly newsletter, were also forwarded to government departments and other organizations.

Liaison

The Policy and Liaison Branch liaised with several seniors' organizations throughout the province. Meetings were held with seniors in 166 senior activity centres. In addition, staff attended special events as well as annual meetings sponsored by the major provincial seniors' organizations. Contacts also were maintained with local seniors' organizations including Councils on Aging.

The branch maintained a portable display for providing information about the Seniors' Secretariat as well as provincial programs and services for seniors. The display was set up in malls, meetings of seniors' organizations and other events for seniors.

A Resource Centre on Aging is also maintained by the branch. The centre can be used by the public and contains a large number of publications and a small but growing number of video tapes.

Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

The Policy and Liaison Branch provided research and administrative support to the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council. Issues researched included elder abuse, transportation, the Constitution and seniors with disabilities. A paper on care for the informal caregiver was updated for Council. As well, the branch assisted in the planning and promotion of Seniors' Week held during the first week of June.

Plans for 1992-93

During the upcoming fiscal year, staff will participate in a review of income security programs. They will also help review other programs for seniors to ensure they are appropriate and administratively efficient.

Further statistical analysis will be done to provide a better understanding of the trends affecting seniors.

In addition, staff will continue to seek low cost ways to increase awareness of seniors and their issues, particularly elder abuse.

Council Mandate

The Senior Citizens' Provincial Council is an advisory body appointed by the Minister responsible for Seniors. It:

- Represents the views of seniors across the province to government through the Minister responsible for Seniors.
- Provides for and fosters "grassroots" input from senior citizens.
- Seeks to identify senior citizens' needs, problems and aspirations.
- Advises the Minister responsible for Seniors on matters affecting seniors which have been referred to Council for study, review and recommendation.
- Acts as an advocate for seniors through such means as backing recommendations with fact-finding and research.

Council includes a part-time Chairperson and up to 14 members-at-large from various parts of the province. Four-fifths of the members must be senior citizens.

Major Issues

Council identified three issues as priorities for discussion and review during the year.

Elder abuse was selected as the most important issue. Council recognized the need for public awareness and education as the first key steps. An action plan was developed to deal with the issue on four fronts:

- Information
- Education
- Community Services
- Law (Legislation)

As a first step, Abuse of the Elderly, Recommendations to the Minister responsible for Seniors, was prepared and distributed widely to seniors' groups, professional organizations and other government departments and agencies within Saskatchewan and across Canada.

A second priority issue for Council was care of the informal caregiver. An updated paper was reviewed by Council. A copy of the paper was also sent to the minister.

The issue of coordination of health care services also was a priority. As a first step, Council met with representatives of Saskatchewan Health to discuss the needs of informal caregivers and long term care issues.

Major Activities

Council has a responsibility to work with other organizations in order to accurately reflect the views of seniors to the minister.

To this end, Council invites seniors' organizations in Saskatchewan to attend meetings and share mutual concerns. In 1991-92, the following seniors' organizations attended a Council meeting:

- Fédération des aînés fransaskois
- Prince Albert Council on Aging
- Regina Council on Aging
- Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated
- Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism
- Seniors' Institute of Saskatchewan - One Voice
- Seniors' Programs, Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

Council also attends activities of other organizations. During the year, the events attended by the Chairperson and/or Council members included:

- Annual Meeting of Provincial Advisory Councils
- Annual Meetings of Provincial Seniors' Organizations
- Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Meeting
- Caring Community Conference
- Federal-Provincial Seniors Advisory Committee on Housing
- Learning Unlimited Conference
- Minister's Advisory Committee on Safe Use of Medicines
- Minister of State for Seniors, Information Sharing Session
- Saskatchewan Gerontology Association Annual Meeting
- Transportation Forum

Council also distributes briefs, submissions and reports to seniors' organizations and agencies working with seniors.

Council is often asked by government and non-government organizations for advice on seniors' issues. In 1991-92, Council's comments were requested on the following:

- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan's strategic plan
- Minister's Consultation: Background Paper
- Mistawasis Indian Band's "Senior Homecare Assessment" Report
- Personal Medication Diary
- Premier's Disabled Persons' Advisory Committee
- Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)
- Saskatchewan Ambulance Association's strategic plan
- Saskatchewan's fiscal and economic situation
- Sessions for seniors on consumer fraud
- Task Force on Saskatchewan's Future in Confederation
- Transportation services for seniors
- Well elderly clinics and information services for senior activity centres

Senior' Week

June 2-8, 1991 was proclaimed Seniors' Week in Saskatchewan. It coincided with National Environment Week. As a special event, the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council sponsored a "Memories" contest. Seniors were asked to write about how they used to reduce, reuse, recycle or recover.

Seven winners were chosen out of the 129 entries. Special recognition was paid to the winners during Seniors' Week. A booklet containing the seven winning essays was published by Council and distributed to seniors' groups and libraries as well as to the entrants.

The contest and booklet highlighted seniors' potential as leaders in the struggle to conserve scarce resources.

Members as of March 31, 1992

Miss Madge McKillop, **Chairperson**, Saskatoon
Mme. Cécile Bourget, Saskatoon
Mr. Dave Bowers, Weyburn
Mr. Derek Brown, Candle Lake
Mr. John Herne, Hudson Bay
Mrs. Gladys Johnston, Leask
Dr. Bill Klassen, Regina
Reverend Glen McLean, Eston
Mrs. Wilma Mollard, Saskatoon

Mr. Louis Morin, Turnor Lake
Mr. Verne Morrison, Melfort
Ms Brenda Righetti, Regina
Mr. J. Robert Porter, Maple Creek
Mr. George Terry, Moose Jaw
Ms Marjorie Willson, Moosomin

Retired During 1991-92

Mrs. Doris Balkwill, Regina
Mr. Alex MacLeod, Swift Current
Mrs. Irene Nielson, Craik
Mrs. Doreen Roberts, Regina
Mr. Charles Watson, Saskatoon
Mrs. Marjorie Wettergreen, Prince Albert

Plans for 1992-93

Council will continue to seek the input of seniors and represent their views to the government.

The Minister responsible for Seniors has asked Council to ensure that seniors' needs are addressed in the income support review being planned by the government in 1992-93. In addition, the Minister asked Council to lead a review of a broad range of seniors' programs to ensure they are meeting the needs in the most efficient way possible.

Public awareness and education of elder abuse will continue to be a priority for Council. Council plans to produce a bookmark about elder abuse to increase general awareness of the issue and to advise seniors of their rights and responsibilities.

Revenues and Expenditures - Seniors' Secretariat

Table 5
Revenue and Expenditures
1990-91 and 1991-92

	1991-92	1990-91
Revenue	$ 202,069	$ 179,567
Expenditures		
Program Services		
Personal Services	$ 662,171	$ 637,396
Other Expenses	441,697	338,510
	1,103,868	975,906
Payments to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	291,814	224,713
Grants for Senior Citizens' Services	837,540	1,103,666
Senior Citizens' Heritage Program	33,804,300	35,274,225
Executive Council	25,725	44,455
Saskatchewan Income Plan	12,286,056	13,317,674
Total Expenditures	**$48,349,303***	**$50,940,639**

* Preliminary actual